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## Pelham's citizens of the year



**GREG FURMINGER/  
QMI AGENCY  
NIAGARA**  
Gary and  
Rosemary  
Chambers,  
Pelham's  
co-citizens  
of the year.  
See story on  
page 2.



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# UPFRONT

■ PELHAM CITIZEN(S) OF THE YEAR: Gary and Rosemary Chambers

## History just one of the ties that bind this couple

GREG FURMINGER  
QMI Agency Niagara

Gary and Rosemary Chambers have a love affair with local history.

It's no secret. If there's something going on in Pelham that has to do with its heritage, especially in Fenwick, you'll probably find the couple involved somehow.

For their volunteer work and commitment to keeping the town's past in its present, the retired couple of nearly 20 years have been co-named Pelham Citizen of the Year — the first time the Fouthill and District Kinsmen honour has been shared in its 17 years.

The accolade and spotlight that comes with it was a surprise.

"Something comes along like this, and it knocks the wind out of you," Gary said.

"Who's been paying so much attention to what you love to do?"

The Kinsmen received about a dozen nominations, a slight increase over most years. They were carefully pored over before a selection was made, said Kevin Twomey, the club's media relations officer.

"It's encouraging, the number of people who feel the desire to nominate someone who goes above and beyond in the community."

Gary and Rosemary were chosen because they each "demonstrate a deep passion and love for this community," Twomey said, while outlining the qualities that set the couple apart from other nominees.

While the pair boast an



GREG FURMINGER/QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

impressive list of volunteer experience, it was their combined attitude the Kinsmen found most inspiring, he said.

"It isn't always how much you do or what you do, but the passion you show when you do it that inspires others."

The passion for history that Gary, a 68-year-old who worked as a General Motors tradesman for 36 years, and Rosemary, a 57-year-old former health services worker at Niagara College, share dates back to their youngest years.

Growing up on Foss Rd. next to the train tracks, Gary often would make the short trek to nearby Church St. to visit with his grandparents to hear his stories about the area and its rich past.

Once Rosemary got a little

older, as the next door neighbour to Gary's grandparents she would visit, too, and pick up on the stories he told. Her father, who came to Canada in 1949 from Holland, was a local painter who would always absorb himself in the

community's old stories, often while on break over coffee. "My father loved history," she said.

Fast forward to now, and those same tales are shared by the couple today through a host of projects they've been involved with.

The list reads like an old ledger: town council's heritage advisory committee, celebration committees for Fenwick's 150th and 160th anniversaries, Friends of Maple Acre Library, the downtown Fenwick revitalization advisory committee, Pelham Historical Society, the movement to get Fenwick's flagpole a heritage designation — the first one in Ontario — and planning of historical cemetery tours expected to take place this fall.

"We don't keep track of this until we sit down (and add it up)," said Gary. "We do what we can do."

Added Rosemary, "Because we can and we have the time."

Though very involved in their community, the couple consider themselves to be private, definitely not the types to be thrust into the spotlight.

"Our involvement was never with the intention of being recognized," Gary said, humbly suggesting there are others more deserving of the citizen of the year title.

Gary and Rosemary will be honoured at a banquet March 3 at Old Pelham Town Hall. Tickets are available at the Royal Bank in Fenwick.

— with files from Maryanne Firth

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## LOCAL NEWS

■ TAIL OF TWO CITIES: Reunited with owner after four years apart

## The cat really did come back

KARENA WALTER  
QMI Agency Niagara

Sounds im-paw-sible, but this story's far real.

Four years after losing her cat in Fenwick, a St. Catharines woman accidentally found her pet up for adoption in her own city.

Rebecca Rennie was reunited this week with Rosie — last seen in June 2011 — after spotting a photo on the Internet. The unexpected reunion was a stroke of luck.

"I probably wouldn't be looking at animals if my friend hadn't lost her dog," said Rennie, who re-adopted 16-year-old Rosie at Lincoln County Humane Society.

Rennie had been caring for Rosie for about six months in 2011 when she took the cat to her parents' rural house in Fenwick, about 20 kilometres from St. Catharines. While out on the deck that evening, Rosie went missing.

The cat was never found, and Rennie suspected she had been attacked by a raccoon. Fast-forward to Sunday, and Rennie was searching various websites to help a friend find a missing dog.

While checking out the site for Lincoln County Humane Society, Rennie started browsing the cat adoption section for fun and saw one photo that looked awfully familiar.

The eyes seemed a little different, but the cat looked like it had Rosie's fur and sleeping posture.

"It had to be him. I knew it was her,"

Rennie said.

She said Rosie was a very affectionate cat, but her most distinctive feature was her sound — her voice box doesn't work.

A call to the humane society revealed the cat at the shelter couldn't meow.

Because of a recent snowstorm, Rennie had to wait until the next day to go to the Fourth Ave. shelter to see for herself.

"When I walked in and saw her lying there, I recognized her," she said.

Problem was, Rosie had an "adopted" sign. But in another twist of fate, the person who planned to adopt Rosie had backed out.

A reunion four years in the making is a first for Lincoln County Humane Society executive director Kevin Strooband.

The longest he's seen a cat go missing before being reunited with its owner was two years. That cat was found a block away from the person's home, and was likely taken in by a neighbour. The second-longest reunion was a year, involving a cat with a microchip.

"This, you just don't hear about it," Strooband said.

So where has Rosie been for four years?

Strooband said someone was feeding her and guessed she could have been living as a farm cat. The humane society picked her up as a stray in west St. Catharines on Dec. 3.

"I don't know how it ended up in St. Catharines," Rennie said.

"I'm just really happy she wasn't eaten by a raccoon."



JULIE JOCSAK/QMI AGENCY NIAGARA

Rebecca Rennie got quite the surprise when she found her cat, which had been missing for four years, at the Lincoln County Humane Society when she was looking for a friend's lost dog. Rennie picked up her cat, Rosie, last week.

And the missing dog Rennie was searching for online in the first place?

It's another happy tail. The dog was found at the shelter in Niagara Falls and reunited with its owner, too.

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## ■ COURTS

## Man ordered to stand trial for murder of his estranged wife

ALISON LANGLEY  
QMI Agency Niagara

A Fenwick senior charged with first-degree murder in connection with the death of his 73-year-old estranged wife has been ordered to stand trial.

An 11-day preliminary hearing held in an Ontario Court of Justice in St. Catharines wrapped up Feb. 4.

George Fraser, 71, was ordered to stand trial on a charge of first-degree murder.

A preliminary hearing is held to determine if there's enough evidence to proceed to trial.

Information revealed during the hearing cannot be reported under a publication ban.

Judith Fraser was found in the parking lot of an apartment building on St. Augustine Dr. on Jan. 16, 2014.

Neighbours tried to help the woman by calling 911 and starting CPR. However, she died of her injuries, police said.

Niagara Regional Police said at that time the woman's body was found with "obvious signs of trauma."

A suspect was later arrested in Thorold.

Fraser is scheduled to return to court in St. Catharines March 25.

alison.langley@summedia.ca  
Twitter @nlsalangleysaveOnEnergy  
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"We are looking to get our customers engaged, so they can be important participants in creating a culture of conservation — do more, save more" says CEO & President Brian Wilkie.

The green wrapped bus showcases local businesses that participated in the various saveOnEnergy programs and information to access the full slate of saveOnEnergy conservation programs.



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## Maybe we just don't get science

The first science book I remember reading was titled, *The First Men in the World*. It was a gift from my cousin, and purported to tell the tale of our prehistoric ancestors' struggle for survival.

I loved that book. By today's standards, it is hopelessly outdated. Yet the worn, battered paperback still sits on my book shelf. Other books played a much bigger role in lighting the fire of interest in science in my mind — Carl Sagan's *Cosmos*, for example — but *The First Men in the World* was my introduction to a bigger universe.

Science, of course, is what makes just about everything in our modern world work. As likely as not, you're reading this column online using technology developed by scientists. Your smartphone, your car, the food you bought today, the antibiotics that cured your pneumonia — all the result of science.

That's the intense irony about our culture. We use the products of science nearly every minute of our lives without thinking, but we simultaneously harbour a deep distrust of science.

Those feelings were on full display last week as we watched the re-emergence of measles in Canada, including one case right here in Niagara.

A recent survey showed 20% of residents in Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta believe the measles vaccine causes autism. It's a staggering statistic, given that we know for a fact — thanks to science — that it doesn't.

This disconnect between science reality and common knowledge is not limited to vaccines.

Science also shows us climate change is real, evolution is fact, genetically modified foods aren't killing us, cellphone transmissions haven't resulted in a massive spike in brain cancers and human beings did, in fact, land on the surface of the moon.

But if you dare to venture into the nether realm of the Internet, you'll find a kaleidoscope of paranoid conspiracy theories, junk science and fantasy that all says the same thing — science is a lie.

(These messages are broadcast using a product of science, but the purveyors of this nonsense don't trouble themselves with

that.)

It isn't that scientists don't make mistakes. They do. Humans are effectively mistake-generating machines.

We're also unabashedly greedy, and there are always those who try pass off frauds as science, from the doctor who faked the study claiming autism is caused by vaccines, to the clown who made the Pildown Man "fossil."

These sorts of incidents are often taken as evidence the process cannot be trusted. Yet, frauds in science are uncovered by more science. The process itself is ruthlessly self-correcting, forever trying to disprove its own conclusions. That's its power.

I suspect a big part of the problem is culturally, we don't understand what science does. There is simply too much data for one person to get a grip on, and that mountain of information grows exponentially every year. For instance, if your cellphone died, could you fix it on your own? Including manufacturing the parts you'd need?

Do you even know how those parts are made? Probably not, and we're talking about

a device you use every day.

It doesn't help that most science journalism often does little to improve our general scientific literacy. After all, the journalists writing about science are often no more expert than their readers.

Maybe that's the point. We're divorced from the basic bits of science.

A cellphone works because, well, it works. Vaccines protect us from illness because they do. Many of us view it as a kind of magic, I think. And that is a very real problem.

But getting at the facts behind say, vaccines, takes work. It means reading not some conspiracy blog, but the primary sources of scientific journals.

That is time-consuming and, honestly, more than a little dry.

Unfortunately, there really is no way around that — unless you choose blind acceptance in something that might be wildly inaccurate.

Knowledge might be power, but you have to work for it.

grant.lalich@sunmedia.ca

## Shipwrecks – Dalla

SKIP OLLIHAM  
For QMI Agency Niagara



Dalla, shown in this undated photo at Iroquois Lock.

Former *Dalla* caught fire more than a year after being laid up.

What must be considered as a suspicious fire caused heavy damage to the idle freighter *Marmaras* at Lefkas, Greece, on Sept. 1, 1963. The ship had been laid up there for more than a year.

This vessel, in better days, had been a seaway trader as *Dalla* in 1971. It had been built for the Elder Dempster Line at Port Glasgow, Scotland, and completed in April 1961. The 141.73-metre-long vessel had five cargo holds and likely spent considerable time trading between the United Kingdom and Africa.

*Dalla* was sold in 1990 and placed under the flag of Greece as *Marmaras* but was later resold to Seaglean Maritime Ltd. and re-registered in Cyprus. It appears that the ship saw little success for these two concerns and was laid up at Lefkas, Greece, on Feb. 12, 1982.

The fatal fire broke out in the engine room and spread through the accommodation area leaving the ship a total loss. It was sold to Yugoslavian shipbreakers and arrived at Split, under tow, for dismantling on June 19, 1984.

## ■ LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

## Zimmerman honoured by Greenbelt Fund

QMI Agency Niagara

Longtime Niagara politician Debbie Zimmerman is receiving a lifetime achievement award from the Greenbelt Fund.

She was presented the award Tuesday night at the Greenbelt Local Food Reception at the Queen's Landing in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

The Greenbelt Fund said in a release the chief executive officer of the Grape Growers of Ontario is being recognized for her "36 years of public service and for her significant contributions to the grape and wine industry, and to Ontario as a whole."

"It has been a privilege to represent the Town of Grimsby and the Region of Niagara over my time in office. Local governments play a critical

role in shaping communities and the people they serve," Zimmerman said in the release.

"I am honoured the Greenbelt Fund recognizes our role as municipal partners, and I appreciate this recognition today."

Zimmerman began her political career in 1978 as an alderman on Grimsby council. In 1989, she was named to Bill Grimby's vacant seat on regional council, a position she held for 25 years before deciding not to seek re-election in last fall's municipal election.

While on regional council, she served two terms as Niagara Region chair from 1997 to 2003.

She has served on the boards of the Niagara Escarpment Commission and the Niagara Peninsula Conserva-

tion Authority, which, the release says, "has given her a voice in advocating for a successful greenbelt, and increasing the economic success of the Niagara grape and wine industry."

In 2002, she co-founded the Agriculture Task Force, a group composed of Niagara's major agricultural groups. The task force helped to deliver one voice for the sector when advocating for the interests of the agriculture sector.

Established in 2010, the Greenbelt Fund is a non-profit agency supported by public and private sources whose aim is to support farmers in Ontario by increasing the amount of local food consumed in the province through "strategic investments, effective education, innovative policy, and valuable networking initiatives."

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Dr. William Stehbens, at Wellington University in New Zealand, proved Pauling was right. Stehbens' research showed that coronary arteries closest to the heart are under the greatest pressure. This causes collagen to fracture resulting in the formation of a blood clot.

Vitamin C is required to make collagen, the glue that holds coronary cells together, just like mortar is needed for bricks. Lysine, like steel rods in cement, makes collagen stronger.

Dr. Sydney Bush, has since proven that vitamin C can reverse atherosclerosis. Dr. Bush took retinal photographs, then started his patients on high doses of vitamin C and lysine. A year later,



scans showed the atherosclerosis had regressed in the retinal arteries. This also occurs in coronary arteries.

My own story is well documented... almost twenty years ago, after my heart attack, I researched it, and then I started

taking high doses of vitamin C, plus lysine. I am 92 years old now and still going stronger than ever.

For several years I have been trying to find a company that could formulate this heart healthy combination of vitamin C and lysine. It's called Medici-C Plus and it is available at Rosemary's Natural Choices. Dr. W. Gifford-Jones

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# LOCAL NEWS



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## ■ MUSIC: Police band seeking young recruits



ALISON LANGLEY/  
QMI AGENCY NIAGARA  
Paul Brunning,  
left, practices  
the chanter as  
Alejandro Valdes-  
Carletti plays the  
bagpipes. The  
Niagara Regional  
Police Pipe Band  
has launched a new  
music program for  
children interested  
in learning how to  
play the bagpipes  
or snare drum.

## The pipes are calling

ALISON LANGLEY  
QMI Agency Niagara

While some kids aspire to play the guitar or the drums, Paul Brunning has loftier goals.

The nine-year-old Niagara Falls boy is learning to play the bagpipes. "I'll be the only one in my school that plays the bagpipes," he said proudly during a rehearsal at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 479.

Every Sunday, kids between the ages of nine and 17 gather at the Spring St. legion hall and practise playing the bagpipes and snare drums. Most are cadets and some, like Paul, are members of the Navy League of Canada. Alejandro Valdes-Carletti has been playing the bagpipes for the past three years.

"I chose the pipe because I didn't want to just play the drums, I wanted something unique," said the 15-year-old member of 126 Royal Canadian Air Cadets.

Senior cadets like Alejandro act as instructors to the younger members and start by teaching them how to play the chanter.

A chanter is the part of the bagpipe that creates the melody. It looks similar to a recorder.

Once he conquers the chanter, Paul will graduate to the bagpipes.

The program is joint partnership with the Niagara Regional Police Pipe Band, which has been working with local cadet corps for a number of years now.

"What we were finding, however, was once the cadets reached their 19th birthday, they were out of cadets and then not continuing with the band," said Peter MacKenzie, the band's pipe major.

"Teaching is vital to our future and the future of pipe band music in Niagara region."

The pipe band recently launched its Big Noise music program aimed

## POLICE PIPE BAND

### Big Noise Music Program

For children ages nine to 13 interested in learning to play bagpipes or snare drum.

Lessons Tuesdays at 7 p.m. in St. Catharines.  
905-353-8771 to register.

at introducing children between the ages of nine and 12 to the world of bagpipes and snare drums.

"Kids usually plug their ears the first time they get close to a set of bagpipes, so we decided to name the program Big Noise," MacKenzie said.

The inaugural meeting at the Scottish Club on Queenston Rd. in St. Catharines attracted a dozen young people.

"It was great to see everyone come out," MacKenzie said.

No experience is necessary and instructors teach participants to read and play music.

If there is enough interest following the eight-week program, the band will look into creating a developmental pipe band for the junior players.

The NRP Pipe Band currently has 30 adult members. It started in 1977 mainly as a parade band and later became involved in competitions.

Last year, the band competed at several competitions, earning a first and third place showing.

"We were just upgraded to a higher grade band so we were pleased with our results," MacKenzie said.

While there are a few police officers in the band, the majority of the members are civilians. The band represents the police service at a number of community events and at police memorials and funerals.

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Twitter: @infalangley

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## RECREATION PROGRAMS & CLASSES

### Zumba Classes @ Pelham Arena

Tuesday, February 17 9:30 – 10:30am  
Tuesday, February 17 no evening class today

Wednesday, February 18 7:30 – 8:30pm  
Thursday, February 19 10:00 – 11:00am

Walking Club - Everyone is welcome! - February 17 & 19

Interested in joining a Walking Club? Then join ours! Tuesdays at Pelham Arena from 9-10am and Thursdays at Fonthill Bandshell from 9-10:30am. For more information, please contact (905) 892-2607 ext. 329.

### Arena Programs

| Public Skating  | Adult Public Skating                  | Adult/Preschool   | Men's Shiny Hockey   | Women's Shiny Hockey                     | Women's Learn to Play Hockey            | <b>NEW</b> Hockey Skills Hour          | Pelham Panthers Home Games                    |
|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|--|---|--|---|
| <b>Monday Feb 16</b><br>9:30-11:30 pm<br>1:00-3:00 pm<br><br><b>Tuesday Feb 17</b><br>4:00-5:00 pm<br>Friday Feb 20<br>4:00-5:00 pm<br>8:00-9:30 pm | <b>Thursday Feb 19</b><br>1:00-2:00pm | <b>Tuesday Feb 19</b><br>1:00-2:00 pm<br><b>Friday Feb 20</b><br>10:00-11:00 pm | <b>Tuesday Feb 17</b><br>1:00-9:00 am<br><b>Friday Feb 20</b><br>9:00-10:00 am | <b>Thursday Feb 19</b><br>10:30-11:45 am | <b>Thursday Feb 19</b><br>9:30-10:30 pm | <b>Thursday Feb 19</b><br>2:00-3:00 pm | <b>Tuesday Feb 17</b><br>vs.<br>Niagara Falls |

## 2015 TOWN OF PELHAM MARCH BREAK CAMP

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| We will begin with "get to know you" games and activities, indoor and outdoor activities are planned today. Sledding in the afternoon. Please bring skates, mittens, helmet recommended. | Campers are based to Heartland Forest in Niagara Falls; a nature experience dedicated to preservation and education. Campers will participate in a scavenger hunt, go on a guided forest trail hike and roast marshmallows over a campfire. | Today we will be skating in the morning. Please bring skates, mittens, helmet recommended. A special science show in the afternoon. | Spend the morning outdoors playing games. Campers will be based in the afternoon to Disney on Ice in Hamilton to join Mickey and Minnie Mouse on a journey into magical worlds!<br><small>*While due to break camp will be extended until 5:30pm today.</small> | Join us for the final day of March Break camp. For 2015 Today we have a visit from the library, a visit from Pelham's own firefighters and sledding in the afternoon. Please bring ice skates, mittens, helmet recommended. |
| March 16   | March 17  | March 18  | March 19  | March 20  |

#### RATES

|                    |                            |
|--------------------|----------------------------|
| Week Registration  | \$150 / child              |
| 3* child           | \$105                      |
| Daily Registration | \$160 / child              |
| Extended Care      | \$135 / week or \$18 / day |
| Lodging-In-Tuition | \$100 / week               |
| Weekly meal plan   | \$30 / week                |
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For more information, please contact the Recreation and Wellness Programmer at [jcooke@pelham.ca](mailto:jcooke@pelham.ca) or 905 892-2607 ext. 329.

†Special thank you to Marando Family Dentistry for their support.

### Improv Classes

Let two talented instructors teach you the basics of improv!

The Town of Pelham is partnering with E.L. Crossley to offer youth Improv Classes at Old Pelham Town Hall, 491 Canboro Road Ridgville.

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## ■ HEALTH

# Measles confirmed in Niagara

GRANT LAFLECHE  
 QMI Agency Niagara

The measles has returned to Niagara — and the worst could be yet to come.

The Niagara public health department is asking residents who may have come into contact with the infected woman to contact their family doctor.

At the same time, it is bracing for more measles cases because of declining vaccination rates in local elementary schools.

On Feb. 2, Niagara's public health department received lab confirmation of the first measles case in the region since 1996 — In this case, a woman in her 20s in Niagara Falls. She was not vaccinated against the virus.

The return of the highly infectious disease worries public health officials because of falling vaccination rates at area schools.

"We are certainly prepared for more cases," said Dr. Val Jaeger, Niagara's medical officer of health.

"It makes me sad, because the vaccine against measles is very effective and safe for almost everyone."

The true effectiveness of vaccines is found in what health officials call "herd immunity" — when enough people are vaccinated against a disease, it protects the few who cannot take the vaccine due to allergies or other health issues.

Jaeger said measles is "one of the most contagious viruses out there, because it is airborne."

The measles virus can remain airborne and dangerous for several hours after it has been released into the air by a cough or sneeze, she said.

Because it is so easily spread, Jaeger said, herd immunity requires about 95% of a given population to be vaccinated against measles.

According to public health data, 95% of Niagara secondary school students are vaccinated. However, only 85% of elementary school students are.

Vaccination rates will vary from school to school, Jaeger said, but the loss of herd immunity means the measles virus will have a much easier time spreading if it arrives in a local elementary school.

She said children are at a much higher risk of developing complications from the measles than adults. She said about 30% of children who contract measles can develop pneumonia, ear infections

## VACCINATION FACTS

During 2013, an estimated 145,000 measles cases were reported worldwide.

An increase in vaccinations between the years 2000 and 2013 led to a drop-off of nearly 75% in reported cases compared to previous years.

Based on those numbers, it's estimated vaccinations saved 15.6 million lives in that time.

Source: World Health Organization

or brain swelling.

One or two people out of a thousand who contract measles will die.

Jaeger blamed the decline in vaccination rates for the revival of measles in North America, a decline largely driven by debunked, but still popular ideas that vaccines are somehow linked to autism.

"Both as a family physician and in my role in public health, I keep trying to find the right words to make people understand that the measles vaccine is very effective and it is safe," she said.

Jaeger could not say much about the Niagara Falls woman who contracted measles, other than to say she was not vaccinated.

Jaeger said the woman was admitted to Greater Niagara General Hospital for treatment.

The health department says anyone who was in the hospital from 3 p.m. on Feb. 1 to noon on Feb. 2 in Unit C, might have been exposed to the virus.

Anyone at the hospital during that time in that unit is being asked to contact the public health department at 905-688-8248, ext. 7330 or after hours at 905-984-3690.

The health department is also urging all Niagara residents to ensure their vaccinations are up to date. Anyone born before 1970 and who can confirm they had a dose of the MMR vaccine doesn't need further vaccination.

Health officials said that because measles was more prevalent prior to 1970, and people were most likely exposed to the virus.

Anyone born after 1970 needs two doses of the vaccine.

If you are unsure of your vaccination status, contact your doctor.

grant.lafleche@summedia.ca

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# LOCAL NEWS

■ **EDUCATION:** Original pre-qualification list angered Niagara construction group

## College opens bidding to include locals

**DAN DAKIN**  
QMI Agency Niagara

Niagara College has reversed its decision and will allow local contractors to bid on five upcoming major projects.

The decision comes after the Niagara Construction Association went to the media to complain about the fact no local companies made the list of 15 pre-qualified contractors for the five projects worth around \$30 million.

At the time, Niagara College president Dan Patterson said the school was simply following the rules under the province's procurement policy, which doesn't allow favouritism based on location.

Of the 43 companies that bid to gain pre-qualified status, four were local, but the 15 selected were all from outside the region.

However, Patterson has since said the school has expanded the list of pre-qualified companies from 15 to 29, which includes local general contractors T.R. Ilman Contractors from Fonthill and Merit Contractors Niagara from St. Catharines.

Patterson said after meeting with the local contractors and the school's purchasing department, the college decided to increase the number, allowing the local contractors to be included.

Following the provincial procurement policy, the college scored all 43 bidders based on a variety of factors, such as past experience, and gave them a score out of 100. Only contractors that earned 70 or higher could be considered.

"Within that range, we had the discretion to pick a smaller number (of pre-qualifiers)," Patterson said. "We picked 15 qualified contractors."

He said after meeting with the Niagara Construction Association and with the school's purchasing department, it was decided that expanding the number of pre-qualified contractors wouldn't violate any rules.

"It still adheres to our procurement documents to be fair, open and transparent," said Patterson.

Incoming Niagara Construction Association president Kevin Brown, of King Contractors in Niagara Falls, called it a positive step forward.

"We're thrilled with the whole thing. We're happy we'll get some local input from two local general contractors, which may motivate some local subtrades to price the work as well," he said.

Part of the NCA's concern when no local contractors were selected was that the out-of-region general contractors would turn to out-of-region sub-contractors and construction workers to do the work.

The five major projects on the request for pre-qualified bidders are a \$9-million athletic facility and a \$9-million culinary building expansion, both at the Niagara-on-the-Lake campus, as well as a \$4.2-million expansion to the skills trade centre, a \$4-million athletic centre expansion and a \$3.75-million student commons and food court upgrade all for the Welland campus.

But Patterson said there's more work on the horizon, putting the total dollar value at close to \$50 million over the next five or so years.

"(Thursday), I was meeting with our team at the campus and I'm excited about getting shovels ready," he said. "These are really important projects



An artist's rendering of the \$4.2-million expansion planned for Niagara College's Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre at its Welland Campus.

for the college and the community."

Driving the development are Niagara College's reputation for its applied research and food and wine programs, and an overall increase in enrolment, Patterson said.

"The provincial and federal governments see that the college is very much connected to employers," he said, pointing out that the five upcoming projects will be largely funded by those two levels of govern-

ment, in addition to a capital campaign.

Brown said the NCA is glad to have the issue behind it. "We're going to try to build a little better relationship with them," he said. "We'll try to meet a couple of times a year to talk about what they're doing, what we're doing and how we can work together and help the graduates."

dan.dakin@sunmedia.ca  
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**Richard Brown**  
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**BUSINESS**

## Awards honour the tops in Niagara business

**DON FRASER**  
DMI Agency Niagara

Several Niagara business titans were recently handed prestigious awards.

The Niagara Entrepreneur of the Year Awards presents the prizes each year before its gala February dinner at:

In 1983, Parass took a job with Handling as vice-president of marketing. He accepted the position as president in 1989 and built a company known internationally for its niche lifting and handling devices.

He is a board member at Niagara Enterprise Agency and the board of Young Life of Canada.

Cohen is also founder and team captain of Steve's Cycle Paths, which in seven years has raised more than \$4.5 million for cancer research.

The special achievement award was handed to Phil Ritchie, whose Keefer Developments Ltd. has been a leader in the private-sector revitalization of downtown Thorold and Niagara Falls.

He has also served with the St. Catharines-Thorold Chamber of Commerce, Ontario's Finest Inns, the Niagara Falls Downtown

Board of Management and the Smarter Niagara steering committee.

Added to the award's historical hall of fame are Ted and Eb Spencer Fox, of E.S. Fox Ltd., which was established in Welland.

E.S. Fox is a privately owned, integrated Canadian multi-trade constructor and steel fabricator. Its headquarters are now in Niagara Falls, with the main fabrication facility nearby in Port Robinson.

The 2014 Niagara Entrepreneur of the Year Awards Gala Dinner takes place Feb. 20 at the Marriott Gateway on the Falls hotel in Niagara Falls.

This year, a record 70 entrepreneurs were nominated from 42 businesses, said awards executive director Lisa Cairns.

"We have been getting more outreach from other areas of Niagara," she said. "It's a very diverse group again this year ... I can only think of a few that the judges may have

"They are all good and strong nominations coming in this year."

Tickets are available at [niagaraentrepreneur.com](http://niagaraentrepreneur.com) and cost \$120 plus tax. They are also available by phoning 905-688-5757.

Award categories include innovative small business, established enterprise, technological innovation, international trade, tourism enterprise, family enterprise, emerging entrepreneur, agriculture enterprise and environmental enterprise.

## Dr. Kimberly Dobson



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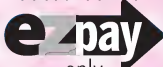
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■ **FUNDRAISER:** Walk aims to raise \$25,000 for Open Arms Mission

## Coldest Night sure to warm hearts

**MARYANNE FIRTH**  
QMI Agency Niagara

Bundle up — it's going to be a cold one.

At least that's what the organizers of Welland's Coldest Night of the Year are hoping for.

The fundraising walk, this year held in support of Open Arms Mission, takes place Saturday, Feb. 21, and aims to offer participants a glimpse of what it's like to experience surviving on the streets during a cold Canadian winter.

"It's an amazing opportunity to raise awareness of the hungry, the hurting and the homeless here in Welland," mission manager Jeff Aitken said of the walk, which includes two-, five- and 10-kilometre routes.

Participants will both start and end their evening at Rosedale Baptist Church, 11 Rosedale Place, with registration getting underway at 4 p.m. followed by the walk at 5:15 p.m.

Once their chosen route has been completed, walkers will return to the church for a hot meal.

Welland is one of 80 communities participating in the national initiative that sees walks hosted on the same evening throughout the country.

The walk was previously held in Welland by The Hope Centre, though the agency chose to focus its attention on other initiatives in 2015.

Though it's Open Arms Mission's first

year hosting the walk, the organization has set an ambitious fundraising goal of \$25,000.

Aitken is hopeful the community will support the event as it has in the past. Along with the general public, clients of the mission have been encouraged to participate.

"It's an opportunity not only to raise funds but also for people to rub shoulders with the people they're helping," Aitken said.

"It says 'There's no us and them.' We'll all get cold together. We'll all get hungry together."

Blue Sex Philanthropy, the organization that oversees the national initiative, has agreed to waive the registration fee for mission clients, though they are still encouraged to collect pledges.

Aitken said it's inspiring for clients to come to such an event and see a crowd of people willing to lend a helping hand to those who are down on their luck.

All participants will receive a Coldest Night of the Year t-shirt or scarf to wear during the event.

Registration is \$25. Adults who raise \$150 in pledges and youths aged 13 to 17 who raise \$75 do not have to pay the registration fee.

To register, visit [www.coldestnight-offtheyear.org/location/welland](http://www.coldestnight-offtheyear.org/location/welland).

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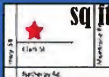
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## ■ NIAGARA REGION: Conservation authority under fire

## Landowners air grievances against NPCA

ROB HOULE  
QMI Agency Niagara

Some Niagara landowners feel Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority is overstepping its boundaries.

Niagara Landowners Association president Dave Honey was in Niagara Region council chambers most recently Feb. 5, railing against the conservation authority.

At last week's budget review committee of the whole, in a presentation to councillors Honey asked that they request NPCA reveal how much money it is spending "dragging citizens through court on a regular basis."

While NPCA receives the bulk of its funding from region taxpayers, it and the other conservation authorities are arm's-length agencies created by the province.

Board members assigned from municipalities within the authority's watersheds provide oversight of the agencies. The NPCA board is formed of members from Niagara's 12 municipalities, two members representing the City of Hamilton and one member from Haldimand County.

"People are going into debt, losing their retirement savings plans and losing their properties due to the financial strain of court cases initiated by the NPCA," Honey said last week.

"Taxpayer dollars should not be spent to prosecute taxpayers."

Honey accused NPCA of being "predatory toward the general public and small landowners."

In closing, he issued a warning to councillors.

"If you let this organization get any more powerful or any less accountable to you, no one—not even the municipalities—will

have any control over how they use their own lands."

Reached by phone, Honey, who operates Honey Valley Farms in Lincoln where he grows grapes and raises beef cattle on 32 hectares, said he and others take issue with NPCA inspectors stepping onto private property.

"They are overstepping their boundaries on the legislation," Honey said.

"They are not allowed on private property."

Honey claims property rights are protected by long-standing Crown patents that gave land to soldiers in the 1700s and 1800s.

"They (NPCA) doesn't understand that this is a contract, still today, because right in the Crown land patent it says that this land is to be handed down to your heirs and assigns."

"And they are able to do with it as they please, as long as it doesn't affect their neighbour. They are in full control of the trees, of the soil and of the water that goes through their property, but they can't do anything with it if it's going to affect their neighbour."

Honey said his association cannot afford to argue its case to the Supreme Court.

NPCA board chair Bruce Timms said the agency, under new corporate leadership guided by a new strategic plan, is taking a more conciliatory approach in dealing with private landowners.

Timms said the NPCA has been given added responsibilities over the years, including enforcement of Niagara Region's tree bylaw "and the Ministry (of Natural Resources) has given us responsibilities where we do have the right to go on people's property on an enforcement basis."

"It's clearly defined where we do not have the right to go on people's property unlimited or without permission... and we have made it clear to our staff that we don't exercise any rights we don't have and we get permission whenever possible. Only as a last resort do we go on people's property."

Timms said the issues expressed by the Niagara Landowners Association are "historical" in nature and that the new strategic plan "balances the values of the stakeholder with the needs of environmental enforcement."

"We are looking at solutions, rather than putting up obstacles."

"As a board, we took the position that we respect the landholders' rights and we don't want to unnecessarily intrude on their rights, but we do have obligations under various Acts to do that."

Timms said the agency cannot ignore the law.

"We operate under provincial rules... and whenever the province responds to [landowner] concerns about property rights, and when the province changes the rules, we'll follow those changes."

Timms said NPCA is looking at resolving environmental issues with landowners with an eye toward staying out of the courts.

"We are working to reduce drastically the number of situations that actually get to a court," Timms said.

"We have a greater respect and understanding of the landowner as a stakeholder in our mission to conserve and protect the environment."

Conservation authority CAO Carmen D'Angelo was not available to comment for this story.

Honey was back to address regional council Thursday along with landowners association member Gregg Wilson. Approximately two dozen other landowners attended the meeting.

In their presentation to council, Wilson and Honey reiterated the association's concerns that private property rights were being infringed upon. Each time they attempted to cite examples, they were shot down by Chair Alan Casslin, who sought legal advice from Jennifer Fern, the region's director of legal and court services.

"I would recommend to council that we ask the delegation not to refer to matters that are currently before the courts," Fern said.

Council received the presentation from Wilson and Honey without comment.



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# LOCALNEWS

## ■ POWER OF BEING A GIRL CONFERENCE

# Guiding young women into adulthood

ALISON LANGLEY  
(M) Agency Niagara

Grade 10 girls from across Niagara will get a lesson in self-esteem and empowerment courtesy of journalist and former model by Prosper.

Prosper will be a guest speaker at the ninth annual Power of Being a Girl Conference today (Thursday) at the Merrittion Lions Club in St. Catharines.

"Events like these are extremely important in the development of young minds because now is the time when they begin making decisions that affect who they become in the future," Prosper said.

"They need to know how to think critically and never take anything at face value. Building the confidence in who they are while they're still young will play a huge role in the adults they will be in the future."

Two hundred students have been invited to attend the event hosted by YWCA Niagara Region.

Prosper will discuss self-esteem and body image as it relates to the media and share personal stories of working in the modelling and television industries.

"I hope that the participants take away the fact that beauty comes from within and that there is no such thing as perfection," she said.

"The media creates images that often have us questioning our self-worth; whether you're young or old. I hope the

## POWER OF BEING A GIRL

Feb. 12, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
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For more information, call 905-988-3528, ext. 3244 or e-mail [lifeskills@ywcaniagara.org.ca](mailto:lifeskills@ywcaniagara.org.ca).

girls will walk away from the presentation with a mind that asks questions about what they see and acknowledges that they are uniquely beautiful. Everyone has beauty because beauty is diverse."

The conference includes educational programming designed to inspire and empower girls to be comfortable in their bodies.

"The conference is the only event in this region that brings together 200 Grade 10 girls to speak about issues they face," said Krystal Snider, life skills co-ordinator at the YWCA Niagara Region.

"The goal of this day is to empower young women to have a voice and to question the world around them. With this year's focus on body image we hope to instill an understanding that all bodies are different and that they all are beautiful."

The day's agenda includes guest speakers, a photography project and discussions surrounding a healthy body image.



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■ **DRUM CORPS:** Wellander plays bass drum in Militaires Alumni

# 'I don't let my blindness stop me'

**ALLAN BENNER**  
QMI Agency Niagara

There were two things that inspired Wayne Tuttle to learn to play the drums: marching bands and Ringo Starr.

He recalled growing up in the 1960s, pounding away on his desktop with two rulers while listening to Beatles songs.

But he also remembered standing alongside the parade route as a young child, watching in awe as drum bands marched past.

"I've always been intrigued by marching bands ever since I was five or six years old," the Welland resident said.

Tuttle soon learned to play the drums for real, playing with a few rock bands and until recently he never had a chance to realize his dream of being a drummer in one of those marching bands.

That changed recently

when Tuttle saw an advertisement on Kijiji saying the Niagara Memorial Militaires Alumni Drum Corps was looking for new members.

He joined the Niagara Falls-based group as a bass drummer, and has been performing with them ever since.

But participating in parades throughout southern Ontario, New York and Pennsylvania poses a little more of a challenge for Tuttle, now 59 years old.

Tuttle has been legally blind since 1976.

He isn't unique. He said the Ohio State School for the Blind has its own marching band, and even the Militaires have had a blind drummer.

But currently, he said, "I am the only blind marching band bass drummer in Canada."

"I do a lot of stuff. I don't let my blindness stop me," said Tuttle, who has very limited vision in his left eye



SUBMITTED PHOTO

The Niagara Memorial Militaires Alumni Drum Corp. perform in a local parade.

and none in his right eye.

He's even flown an airplane and a glider, as well as operated snowmobiles. He

plans to learn scuba diving in the near future. Although his vision has made marching along a

parade route more challenging — particularly after dark, when he's completely blind — it hasn't hurt his perform-

ance — or the band's. The Militaires were honoured for their performance in the Thorold Saint Claus Parade.

Since joining the Militaires, Tuttle has become concerned about preserving marching bands so future generations of children will find the same inspiration that he did, standing alongside the parade route when he was a child.

"Drum corps are a dying art," he said, adding the average age of members of the Militaires is 65, and the oldest member is in his 80s.

Tuttle said he has recruited his 14-year-old daughter Sarah to join the band, likely to play the glockenspiel.

But the band needs more young people to get involved to keep the tradition alive.

More information about the band is available at [www.militairesalumni.com](http://www.militairesalumni.com).

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## Contract - Cashier/Receptionist



The Town of Pelham is now accepting resumes from applicants with a 1-year College certificate in Business or related field, excellent organizational and communication skills and minimum 6 months experience in a similar role who are proficient in Microsoft Office applications and able to multi-task. Knowledge of Vadim or iCity Municipal software is an asset. This 1-year maternity leave contract opportunity is offered at \$21.40 per hour (35 hours per week).

Visit [pelham.ca/career-opportunities](http://pelham.ca/career-opportunities) for more information and to apply by Friday, February 13, 2015.

## Contract - Deputy Clerk & Secretary Treasurer



The Town of Pelham is now accepting resumes from applicants with municipal experience preferably in the Clerk's department who have knowledge of the Municipal Act, Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, Statutory Powers Procedures Act, Parliamentary Procedures, Municipal Elections Act and the Planning Act, with previous experience as Assistant Secretary-Treasurer to the Committee of Adjustment and excellent communication, computer, organizational skills. AMCT and ACST Designations would be an asset. This 1-year maternity leave contract opportunity is offered at \$31.27 per hour (35 hours per week).

Visit [pelham.ca/career-opportunities](http://pelham.ca/career-opportunities) for more information and to apply by Monday, February 23, 2015.

Appliance Repair

Appliance Repair

Apartments



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